

Message Text

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SUBJECT: CHEYSSON ON SOUTHERN AFRICA

1. CLAUDE CHEYSSON, EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY, WHO HAS JUST RETURNED FROM TRIP TO MOZAMBIQUE, SWAZILAND, AND MALAGASY REPUBLIC, COMMENTED TO ME SEP 10 ON HIS IMPRESSIONS.
2. HE FOUND AFRICANS EVERYWHERE HE WENT TALKNG WITH APPRECIATION BOTH OF THE POLITICAL DECLARALTIONS OF THE NINE AS REGARDS NAMIBIA AND RHODESIA AND THE SECRETARY'S LUSAKA SPEECH. CHEYSSON, WHO KNOWS AFRICA WELL, SAID WESTERNERS MIGHT NOT ATTACH TOO MUCH IMPORTANCE TO GENERAL POLICY DECLARATIONS BUT AFRICANS DID. ALSO THIS WAS A CRUCIAL WAY OF EXERCISING MORAL PRESSURE ON SOUTH AFRICA AND IN THE LONG RUN THE ONLY HOPE WAS MORAL PRESSURE THAT WOULD AFFECT THE CONSCIENCE OF THE AFRICANERS.
3. HE FOUND THAT THE DEVELOOPMENT OF NON-RACIST SOCIETIES, FOR EXAMPLE, IN SWAZILAND, ALSO HAD AN IMPORTANT DEMONSTRATION EFFECT BOTH FOR WHITES AND BLACKS. THAT PROCESS SHOULD BE SUPPORTED.

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4. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE WAS DEPRESSED AS RESULT HIS VISIT TO MOZAMBIQUE. DOS SANTOS WAS TOTALLY IMPOSSIBLE. HE WAS CONVINCED COMMUNIST IDEOLOGUE WITH NO UNDERSTANDING OF WORLD REALITIES. DOS SANTOS HAD TALKED TO HIM OF NEED FOR BASIC INDUSTRY ON TOTALLY INDEPENDENT BASIS, SAYING MOZAMBIQUE NEEDED ITS OWN STEEL PLANTS, IT OWN AUTO FACTORIES, ETC., AND COULD NOT EVEN SHARE PRODUCTION FACILITIES OR MARKETS WITH OTHER AFRICAN STATES SINCE TO DO SO WOULD COMPROMISE ITS INDEPENDENCE. WHEN CHEYSSON HAD TRIED TO TALK OF NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES, DOS SANTOS HAD TOLD HIM THERE WERE NO NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES, THERE WAS ONLY A WORLDWIDE PROLETARIAN STRUGGLE AGAINST EXPLOITIVE CAPITALISM.

5. SAMORA MACHEL HAD ECHOED SOME OF DOS SANTOS LINE BUT CLEARLY WAS MORE RATIONAL AND READY TO CONSIDER OTHER POSSIBILITIES. HE HAD ALSO FOUND INTEREST IN TIES WITH EUROPE WHEN HE MET WITH CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND ANSWERED QUESTIONS. MACHEL, AT NYERERE AND KAUNDA'S URGING, HAS STUDIES LOME CONVENTION AND SEES SOME UTILITY TO MOZAMBIQUE ADHERENCE. ON OTHER HAND, HE PRESSED CHEYSSON REGARDING EC DIFFICULTIES WITH SOVIETS AND CHEYSSON CONCLUDES THAT SOVIET POSITION IN MOZABMIQUE IS CRITICAL DETERRENT ON POSITIVE DECISION VIS-A-VIS LOME. WHILE CHEYSSON FOUND SOVIET INFLUENCE IN ASCENDANCY, WITH CHINESE LESS IMPORTANT THAN WHEN HE LAST WAS THERE, HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT SOVIETS CAN PROVIDE EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE. HE DOES BELIEVE COMMUNITY AND ESPECIALLY PORTUGAL COULD HELP BUT HE FOUND HATRED FOR PORTUGUESE TO BE THEME WHICH RAN THROUGH ALL HIS MEETINGS. HE HAD SEEN NOTHING LIKE IT SINCE POST-INDEPENDENCE ALGERIAN REACTION TO FRENCH. MACHEL, OTHER THAN REFERENCE TO SECRETARY'S LUSAKA SPEECH, HAD MADE ONLY ONE OTHER MENTION OF AMERICANS, CURIOUSLY, HE HAD COMMENTED AT ONE POINT, "SOVIET BASES IN MOZAMBIQUE ARE NO MORE PERMISSIBLE THAN AMERICAN BASES IN ZAIRE."

6. CHEYSSON CONCLUDED MOZAMBIQUE DESPERATELY NEEDED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND MANGERIAL HELP BUT THEY WOULD NOT TAKE IT FROM PORTUGAL, SOVIET INFLUENCE FOR NOW RULED OUT EUROPEAN COMMUNITY CONNECTION, AND IDEOLOGICAL BENT OF DOS SANTOS MEANT ASSISTANCE WOULD NOT BE EFFECTIVE IN ANY

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CASE. STILL SOMETHING HAD TO BE DONE. HE WONDERED IF MAYBE INDIAN GOVERNMENT COULD PROVIDE ACCEPTABLE HELP, AT LEAST, HE SAID, SOME GOANS SPEAK PORTUGUESE.

7. MALAGASH SITUATION IS MORE RELAXED THAN YEAR AGO. RATSIRAKA IS IN CONTROL AND NO ONE IS STARVING. UNFORTUNATELY, NO ONE WILL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANYTHING, THUS IMPLEMENTATION OF EC PROJECT ASSISTANCE IS HORRENDOUS, BUT,

HE CONCLUDED, HE WOULD KEEP TRYING. HINTON

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